

Application No.: 10/527,718
Attorney Docket No.: 32860-000863/US

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached "Replacement Sheets" of drawings include changes to Figures 1 and 2. The attached "Replacement Sheets," which includes Figures 1 and 2, replace the original sheets including Figures 1 and 2.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

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REMARKS

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Claims 1-40 are all of the pending claims, with claim 1 being the sole independent claim.
Claims 1-2, 9, 14-24, 30-32, and 36-38 have been amended.

I. Drawings

The drawings stand objected to for certain informalities. Applicants have attached replacement drawings for the Examiner's approval. In the "Replacement Sheets," with reference to Figs. 1 and 2, Applicants have added reference numeral 50 to identify the coaxial exhaust gas nozzle segment of claim 6.

II. Specification

Applicants have amended the specification by amending paragraph [0074].

III. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicates that claims 15-24 and 30-38 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

IV. Claim Objections

Applicants appropriately amend claims 2, 19-22, 30, 31, and 36-38 to address the informalities cited by the Examiner.

V. Claim Rejections on Prior Art Grounds

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US 4,678,439 to Schlichthorst ("Schlichthorst"); claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 25-29, and 39-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Schlichthorst in view of WO 02/057132 to Drefs et al. ("Drefs"); claims 4, 5, 10, and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Schlichthorst and Drefs, further in view of US 2005/0009418 to Ries et al. ("Ries"); and claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Schlichthorst and Drefs,

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further in view of US 3,943,876 to Kickhaefer ("Kickhaefer"). Applicants respectfully traverse all of these rejections in view of the following remarks.

A. Independent Claim 1

The Examiner indicates that previously presented claims 17 and 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claims. Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate most of the features of the previously presented claims 17 and 18.

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites a corvette vessel-type equipment system that includes (among other things) "a power generator segment including a first electrical system, the first electrical system including generators and internal combustion engines, by which the generators can be driven, arranged in adjacent compartments in one of the vessel protection areas." At least these features (as recited in claim 1), in combination with the other features defined by independent claim 1, are not taught or suggested by the prior art references relied upon by the Examiner.

Example, non-limiting embodiments of these features are discussed throughout the specification. For example, paragraph [0004] and [0005] indicate that a "corvette" vessel-type equipment system having standard equipment segments (e.g., a power distribution system) may be prefabricated and installed in vessel hulls of different vessel-type equipment systems, thereby requiring less engineering effort for production and/or having a lower cost. Further, for example, paragraph [0022] indicates that the modular design and modular separation of the system components (e.g., between the internal combustion engine/gas turbines and the generators) may result in a considerable improvement in the survivability of the "corvette" vessel-type equipment system.

Neither Schlichthorst nor Drefs discloses how the power supply associated with a propulsion system for a ship is laid out, and thus does not disclose modular segmenting of the power supply. Accordingly, neither Schlichthorst nor Drefs teaches or suggests "a power generator segment including a first electrical system, the first electrical system including

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generators and internal combustion engines, by which the generators can be driven, arranged in adjacent compartments in one of the vessel protection areas," as recited in independent claim 1.

Furthermore, even if combined in the manner suggested by the Examiner, Schlichthorst and Drefs would not meet each and every feature of independent claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is patentable over Schlichthorst and Drefs, and kindly request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection to claim 1.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of all of the pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Donald J. Daly at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

The Commissioner is authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 
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